NOTE VII.

REMARKS ON THE GENUS ORTHRAGORISCUS.

BY

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(Plate V).

Some time ago our Museum received a very young specimen (in liquor) of *Orthragoriscus*-spec.? This acquisition to the series of *O.*-specimens in the Leyden Museum gives me an opportunity to publish the observations I made in comparing this young animal with the other specimens in our collection.

The drawing (3 × natural size), joined to this publication, is made under my direction by Mr. Raar and is a most exact one.

The large conical spines, scattered over the body of the above mentioned young specimen, have the diameter (at the base) greater than the height, and the top sharp, the small ones, more numerous, have the same form but more obtuse. Günther (Catalogue Vol. VIII p. 318) says: »very »young examples with scattered spines, some of which are »permanent through life as osseous tubercles — for instance »at the throat." After an examination of the mounted *Orthragoriscus*-specimens in our Museum, I made the following observations:

Coll. N°.	Place and date.	Tubercles on	
		snout.	throat.
2059	Ameland, ... $^{13}/_{12}$ 1889	0	0
2678	Japon, Coll. Bürger	0	0
2676	Cap, Coll. v. Horstock	1	0
2757	Callantsoog, Dr. Hoek, $^{5}/_{12}$ 1891	1	1
2677	Livourne, Coll. Cantraine . . .	1	3
2679	Côte de Hollande	1	3

So we see that either there may be 1°. *O.*-species without any osseous tubercle permanent through life [1]), 2°. *O.*-species with a tubercle only on the snout, 3°. *O.*-species with tubercles on snout and throat, or the tubercles are permanent or not without being a specific character.

Only a long series of specimens of the most different sizes, together with other characteristics, shall show whether the presence of tubercles is of specific-value or not. An other young specimen [2]), which Prof. Hubrecht was kind enough to sent me, measuring about 4 cM., shows the same number of osseous tubercles.

The »folded band" between dorsal-, caudal-and analfin and the body, to which Dr. v. L. de Jeude refers in »Notes »from the Leyden Museum, Vol. XII, p. 191 and Vol. »XIV, p. 128", is present in both young animals. I will mention here the great resemblance between Yarrels figure in »British Fishes, 3d Ed., Vol. II, p. 432" and that of *O. nasus* in »N. f. t. L. M., Vol. XIV, pl. 5" (made after a photo of the fresh animal), especially concerning the produced snout and the folds in the skin of the body. The band between fins and body is in Y's figure very distinct, in the photo we can only see a demarcation-line, the skin of the band having nearly the same consistence as that of the body, though folds parallel to the line exist. Yarrel says (Vol. II, p. 435): »the representation is from »an adult fish, which was cast ashore at Scarborough and »is preserved in the Museum there. It measured, from the »point of the nose to the end of the caudal fin, three »feet five inches (± 104 cM.)"; so this specimen has about the same size as our *O. nasus* from Callantsoog (123 cM.).

It seems to me that Y's drawing is an exact one [3]);

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[1] See also the drawing in »Yarrel, British Fishes, 3d Ed. Vol. II, p. 436" after a young specimen (35½ cM.), and that in »Day, Brit. Fishes, pl. 148" after an adult one (± 154 cM.).

[2] See also: »Notes f. t. L. Museum, Vol. XII, p. 194."

[3] Yarrel says about this and another specimen: »the attachment of each fin »was thick and fleshy."

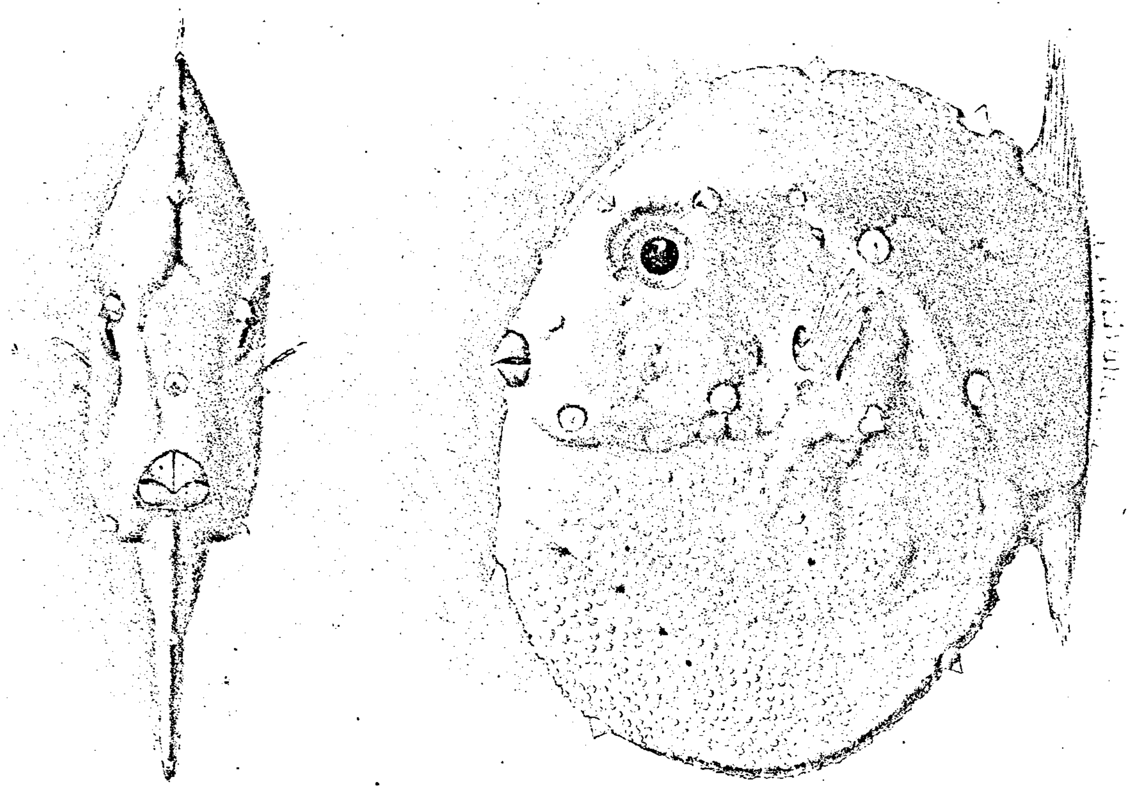
his animal joins characteristics of the two groups mentioned in: »Notes f. t. L. Museum, Vol. XIV, p. 128" and »Tijdschrift der Ned. Dierk. Ver., 2e Reeks, Vol. III, p. 190" in having a distinct folded band, folds in the skin of the body and a hump above the mouth. The two above mentioned young animals show no folds on the body.

Concerning the teeth of our young animal, I found that the maxilla superior is splitted up in the middle, the inferior is not cleft.

A skeleton (103 c.M.) in the collections of the Leyden Museum, preserved in spirits, has the following number of fin rays:

D. 19, C. 12, A. 18, P. 12.

Leyden Museum, March 1894.



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Orthragoriscus sp.? $\times \frac{3}{1}$.